

In the Claims:

Please amend and cancel the claims as indicated in the separate sheets attached below and entitled "Claim Amendments Filed 03/20/2006 with Response to Office Action mailed by Examiner on 09/19/2005 in Patent Application No. 10/619,376".

REMARKS

It is noted with appreciation that the Examiner has determined that claims 14-15, 20-22, 25, 50-53, 57-61, 65 and 67 recite allowable subject matter. Entry of this Response and Amendment Under Rule 116 is respectfully requested as it places the case in condition for allowance. Rejected claims are canceled and claims to which the Examiner made objection are amended, per the Examiner's suggestion, to obviate the objection.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's reasons for rejecting the rejected claims and intend to pursue some or all of the cancelled claims, such as, for example, in divisional or continuation applications, or via a Request for Continued Examination or as otherwise appropriate. In the meantime Applicants have decided to secure a patent including the claims that the Examiner considers to recite allowable subject matter.

New dependent claims 68-78 recite that each of the pair of axially extending stress inducing regions is circular. No new matter is added. Support is found throughout the specification. See, for example, FIGURE 13 and the accompanying text. New dependant claim 79 depends from claim 67 and recites "said fiber is constructed and arranged to provide an absorption per unit length that is within 15 percent of a test fiber that is identical to said fiber except that the outer perimeter of the first cladding of the test fiber is shaped as an octagon." No new matter is added. Support is found throughout the specification . See for example, paragraph 33.